At the bottom of the page two pages after page 46, please insert --48--.

At the bottom of the page three pages after page 46, please insert --49--.

At the bottom of the page four pages after page 46, please insert --50--.

At the bottom of the page five pages after page 46, please insert --51--.

In the Claims

1. (Amended) In a data communication network for communicating data between a plurality of data stations over a communications medium under control of a processor which outputs a plurality of control signals, apparatus comprising:

a receive memory means and a transmit memory means;

a receive datapath corresponding to each data station coupled between said communications medium and said receive memory means for providing at least some data received over said [media] communications medium to said receive memory means;

a transmit datapath corresponding to each data station coupled between said transmit memory means and said communications medium for providing at least some data from said transmit memory means to said communications medium;

each said receive datapath including:

a deserializer configured to receive serial data from said communications medium and output at least a portion of said received serial data in parallel;

means for [determining] selectively transmitting, in response to one of said plurality of

control signals, [whether] said data output by said deserializer [is provided] to said memory means;

said transmit datapath including a serializer configured to receive parallel data and output serial data.

3. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data received over said communications medium includes status data indicating at least [the] a status of port activities.

4. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data received over said communications medium [includes] comprises status data including at least [the] a status of interrupts of at least one of said data stations and wherein each said receive datapath includes a demultiplexer coupled between said communications path and said deserializer for diverting said status data to a first location prior to receipt of serial data in said deserializer.

9. Apparatus, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data stations include at least first and second network data stations, and said apparatus is contained in [a] said first network data station, which is coupled, via said communications medium, to a first plurality of other data stations and also coupled, by said apparatus, via said communications medium, to [a] said second network data station which is coupled to a second plurality of data stations and wherein:

said transmit datapath includes a first-in-first-out buffer for receiving data from said transmit [buffer] memory means and holding said data before providing said data to said serializer.

Please cancel claims 16 and 17 without prejudice.

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18. In a data communication network for communicating <u>data</u> between data stations over a communications medium, said network including at least first and second network data stations, said first network data station coupled to a first plurality of said data stations and also coupled to said second network data station, said second network data station being coupled to a second plurality of said data stations, [apparatus] <u>said first network data station</u> comprising:

a receive memory device and a transmit memory device;

a receive datapath <u>coupled between said communications medium and said receive memory means</u> for providing at least some data received over said media to said receive memory device;

a transmit datapath <u>coupled between said transmit memory means and said communications medium</u> for providing at least some data from said transmit memory device to said communications medium;

a first-in-first-out buffer coupled to said first network data station for receiving data from said transmit memory device and holding said data before providing <u>said data</u> to <u>said</u> second network data station; and

wherein said first-in-first-out buffer is configured to output its contents in response to a signal transmitted by said second network data station.